

1           1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second  
3 physician, the first and second physicians being coupled via a telecommunications system  
4 to an intermediary having a processor and a storage device to which the processor has  
5 access~~an intermediary via a telecommunications system~~, the method comprising the steps  
6 performed in the intermediary using the processor of:

7           receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ a request for a consultation from the first physician  
8 via the telecommunications system and storing the request in the storage device;

9           receiving a selection made by a staff physician in the intermediary of the second  
10 physician, the second physician having an expertise in a specialty in which the  
11 consultation is requested by the first physician;

12          sending ~~by the intermediary~~ the stored request to the selected second physician  
13 via the telecommunications system;

14          receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ a comment made with regard to the consultation via  
15 the telecommunications system from the selected second physician and storing the  
16 comment;

17          providing the stored comment from the selected second physician to the first  
18 physician via the telecommunications system;

19          ~~notifying a continuing medical education accreditation module in the intermediary~~  
20 ~~that the consultation has been successfully concluded;~~

21          on conclusion of the consultation, recording information concerning the  
22 consultation in a continuing medical education database accessible to the processor, the  
23 information being associated with the first physician; and

24          creating an accreditation report for the first physician from the information in the  
25 continuing medical education database, the accreditation report comprising a certification  
26 of the continuing medical education credit earned by the first physician from participation  
27 in the consultation.

1           2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3           retrieving ~~by the intermediary~~ instructional material relevant to the comment and  
4 the consultation selected by the staff physician from an information data base to which  
5 the processor has access; and  
6           providing the instructional material to the first physician via the  
7 telecommunications system.

1           3. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3           providing ~~by the intermediary~~ an examination based on at least the instructional  
4 material to the first physician via the telecommunications system;  
5           receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ via the telecommunications system answers for the  
6 examination from the first physician ~~via the telecommunications system~~; and  
7           receiving a grading by the intermediary grade for the received answers, the first  
8 physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the  
9 examination.

1           4. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3           providing ~~by the intermediary~~ via the telecommunications system an examination  
4 based on at least the comment to the first physician ~~via the telecommunications system~~;  
5           receiving ~~by the intermediary~~ answers for the examination from the first physician  
6 ~~via the telecommunications system~~; and  
7           ~~grading by the intermediary~~ thereceiving a grade for the received answers, the  
8 first physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes  
9 the examination.